

Remarks

Claims 2, 3 and 7 through 24 are now pending.

The Rejection

The following patent publication has been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

	<u>Foreign Patent Publication</u>
EPO	EP 0 693 505 (EP '505)

Claims 1 through 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by EP '505.

In response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b), claims 1 and 4 through 6 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9 through 18 would be allowable if appropriate amendments are made to the claims. Accordingly, new claim 19 has been added as a revision of original claim 1.

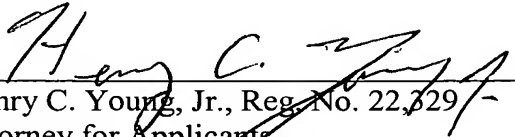
Claims 2, 4 through 7, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in a sense of the meaning of the term "rubbery".

In response to the Examiner's objection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, attention is called to the text of the Applicants' Specification on Pages 26 and 27. In particular, it is contended that the term "rubbery polymer" referred on Page 27, Line 2, is adequately supported and sufficiently equated to the term "synthetic rubber", which has a generally accepted meaning, on previous Page 26, Line 24.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments made to the claims, it is believed that the Applicants' amended claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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